

Message Text

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TO USINT HAVANA

S E C R E T STATE 048056

LIMDIS

FOL BELGRADE 1432 SENT ACTION SECSTATE FEB 22, 1978 REPEATED
TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T BELGRADE 1432

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: YO, PN

SUBJ: THE BELGRADE NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE:

CONVERSATION WITH PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR (VIRILIO BRANDFORD)

1. THE PANAMANIAN AMBASSADOR IN BELGRADE (AN AWFUL BORE,
BUT WELL CONNECTED WITH A NUMBER OF YUGOSLAV GOVERNMENT AND
PARTY OFFICIALS -- HE WAS A STUDENT HERE A DECADE AGO AND
SPEAKS THE LANGUAGE -- AND OTHER NONALIGNED AMBASSADORS)
RECENTLY MADE SOME INTERESTING COMMENTS ON THE UPCOMING
BELGRADE NONALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS CONFERENCE SCHEDULED
FOR LATE JULY.

2. BRADFORD SAYS THERE ARE TWENTY-FIVE TO THIRTY

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NONALIGNED STATES CURRENTLY PLANNING, BECAUSE OF THE
LOCATION, TO BOYCOTT THE 1979 HAVANA NONALIGNED SUMMIT
CONFERENCE. THESE INCLUDE SAUDI ARABIA, KUWAIT, JORDAN,
SOMALIA, SUDAN, CHAD, AND A NUMBER OF OTHER EAST AND WEST
AFRICAN STATES. THE YUGOSLAVS, EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT
THIS DEVELOPMENT, ARE ANXIOUSLY LOBBYING IN FAVOR OF
HAVANA IN AN ATTEMPT TO HEAD OFF A BLOW-UP HERE IN JULY.

THE YUGOSLAVS HAVE ASKED HIM PERSONALLY, BRANDFORD SAID, TO INTERCEDE WITH TORRIJOS TO PERSUADE THE PANAMANIAN TO LOBBY IN A SIMILAR FASHION, PARTICULARLY AMONG THE LATIN AMERICAN NONALIGNED.

3. ACCORDING TO BRANDFORD THE CUBANS ARE WELL AWARE OF THE POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION THIS JULY, AND RECOGNIZE THAT THE SOMALIS WILL RAISE GOC INVOLVEMENT IN THE HORN -- WHICH COULD LEAD TO A "CHAIN-REACTION" AGAINST CUBA. CONSEQUENTLY, BRANDFORD PREDICTED THAT THE CUBANS WILL MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO "DISENGAGE" FROM THE HORN BY NO LATER THAN THE END OF MAY.

4. THE PANAMANIAN IS WORKING HARD TO OBTAIN NONALIGNED MEMBERSHIP FOR BOLIVIA, WHILE THE CUBANS ARE EQUALLY SET AGAINST SUCH STATUS BECAUSE OF THE CHE GUEVERA EPISODE.

5. AMBASSADOR BRANDFORD ALSO REMARKED THAT PRESIDENT TITO HAD PERSONALLY ADVISED GENERAL TORRIJOS TO BE AS FLEXIBLE WITH REGARD TO POTENTIAL US SENATE AMENDMENTS TO THE PANAMA CANAL TREATY AS POSSIBLE. ACCORDING TO BRANDFORD, TITO'S ADVICE MADE A SUBSTANTIAL IMPACT ON TORRIJOS AND IT IN PART RESPONSIBLE FOR THE APPROACH THE GENERAL HAS TAKEN TO THE ISSUE OF AMENDMENTS. EAGLEBURGER UNQUOTE VANCE

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